

Schedule 14 to the Minutes of the Public Hearing meeting of Richmond City Council held on Tuesday, September 5, 2023.

## **Mayor and Councillors**

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**From:** De Whalen <de\_whalen@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** September 5, 2023 9:50 AM  
**To:** CityClerk; Mayor and Councillors  
**Subject:** Sept 5, 2023 Public Hearing submission - Seniors Housing  
**Attachments:** RPRC letter of support\_seniors housing on Railway\_Sept 2023 .pdf

**Categories:** - TO: MAYOR & EACH COUNCILLOR / FROM: CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

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September 5, 2023

Greetings City Clerk, FYI Mayor & Councillors:

Please see submission below and attached, a letter on behalf of the Richmond Poverty Reduction Coalition (RPRC) regarding item #3 on tonight's public hearing agenda. Would you kindly ensure Mayor & Councillors receive it for their kits and it is reported as part of the public record?

Thank you.

Sincerely,

De Whalen  
President, RPRC

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Richmond Mayor & Councillors  
City of Richmond  
6911 No. 3 Road  
Richmond, BC, V6Y 2C1

**SENT BY EMAIL AND PRESENTED BY HAND**

September 5, 2023

**Dear Mayor Brodie and Councillors**

**Re: Affordable Housing for Seniors - 58 units - Public Hearing Item #3  
Railway Avenue development proposal**

This letter is sent on behalf of the Richmond Poverty Reduction Coalition (RPRC) to express our support for the development proposal cited as item #3.

The RPRC is 'a coalition of Richmond residents and agencies working together to reduce poverty and the impacts of poverty with research, projects, and public education.' Our members include numerous Richmond

individuals as well 12 local Richmond organizations. These RPRC members provide services and programs to Richmond's most vulnerable residents, including seniors, single parents, newcomers, people with disabilities, and others. Collectively, the RPRC represents thousands of low-income Richmond residents receiving vital services from Richmond agencies.

This proposal is for a 100% rental seniors housing development that will consist of 58 units, with one half of them low end market rental (LEMR) units and in total, a mixture of studio, 1 and 2 bedrooms. This is very good news for our Richmond seniors, especially seniors who are at risk of homelessness.

For your interest, many of our members participate in the Metro Vancouver Homeless Count that occurs every three years. Although the 2023 final report is not yet out, the 2020 report revealed that the number of seniors experiencing homelessness has increased steadily since 2002. The 2020 count reported that 24% of all those counted were 65 or older. For 45% of respondents 55 years and over, this was the first time they had experienced homelessness. See 2020 Homeless Count final report here: <http://tinyurl.com/2v2mw6d6>

These figures are in line with observations made by our two sister tables, Richmond Homeless Connect and the Food Aid Delivery Coalition.

It is distressing to hear Richmond outreach workers reporting an increasing number of seniors who are 'first timers.' They take them to the shelter or the hospital as there are no other options. But neither of these are appropriate places for unhoused seniors.

This is what is happening, but it is not surprising. We know rents have skyrocketed. We know that seniors are vulnerable in their rented units and can find themselves out of a home when landlords wish to increase their earnings. And we know that pensions have not kept up with the rising cost of living for the essentials of daily life.

The RPRC is in full support of this proposal, and we look forward to the day when this affordable rental housing for seniors opens in Richmond. Our seniors deserve better than the status quo.

Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact the undersigned at [de\\_whalen@hotmail.com](mailto:de_whalen@hotmail.com) or at 604.230.3158.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

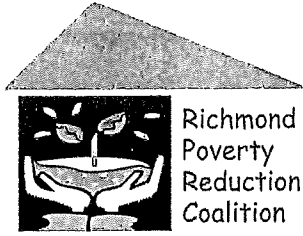
Sincerely,

-original signed-

Deirdre Whalen  
President, RPRC  
cc. RPRC Directors

"We are all in this world together, and the only test of our character that matters is how we look after the least fortunate among us. How we look after each other, not how we look after ourselves. That's all that really matters, I think." Tommy Douglas

*"You can't undo the past. You don't have to feel guilty about the past. You don't even have to apologize for the past. All you have to do is say YES. Yes, this happened. We can start there."* Richard Wagamese on Reconciliation.



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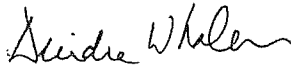
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Deirdre Whalen  
President, RPRC  
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